

## **Ecological modernization theory - facts and context. Historical perspective, conditions and limits of the neoliberal sustainability concept**

### **Annotation:**

This diploma thesis deals with the synthesis of ideas of ecological modernization theory, which has been developing since the 80's of the 20<sup>th</sup> century particularly in Western Europe. The ecological modernization theory wants to explain, interpret and propose environmental reforms in conjunction with continued economical growth, industrial development and globalization. The ecological modernization theory argues that a continuous industrial development does not lead inevitably to environmental degradation, but rather provides the best possible way out of the environmental crisis. Although the ecological modernization theory is a relatively young concept, during the first thirty years of its existence has greatly expanded and diversified, gained countless supporters and opponents, provoked a number of debates and inspired many empirical studies. This development, however, has led not only to new findings but also resulted in a dilution of the ecological modernization theory, which thereby has become confusing, vague and inconsistent. This thesis attempts to give a framework to the ecological modernization theory to specify not only its main ideas and goals, but also the context and conditions necessary for its viability. This paper will also critically discuss the limits of the ecological modernization in the light of criticism of some of the conditions that the theory requires.

**Klíčové pojmy:** ekologická modernizace, industrializace, kapitalismus, ochrana životního prostředí, technologie, environmentální inovace, věda, pokrok

**Keywords:** ecological modernization, industrialization, capitalism, environmental protection, technologies, environmental innovation, science, progress